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# New Buffalo Times

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## GRAND TIMES...

## CELEBRATING A GRAND FLORAL PARADE IN ST. JOSEPH AND BENTON HARBOR

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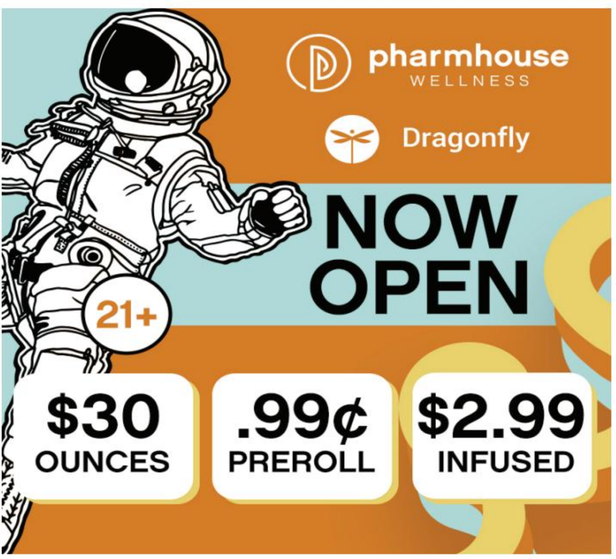
PHOTO OF THE BERRIEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S HONOR GUARD MARCHING IN THE PARADE BY FRANCESCA SAGALA



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# Berrien County Health Department provides tick bite prevention tips during Lyme Disease Awareness Month

The Berrien County Health Department is providing tick bite prevention tips to community members in recognition of Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection spread to people through the bite of a blacklegged tick. According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, 81 of Michigan's 83 counties have a known or potential risk of Lyme disease as of 2024, including Berrien County.

Ticks like to inhabit wooded, brushy areas or in leaf litter. They are generally most active during the warmer months from April through September or when temperatures are above 40 degrees.

"As community members venture outdoors to enjoy the warmer weather, it's important they take simple precautions to prevent tick bites," said Nick Margaritis, BCHD's environmental health services manager. "Ticks can be hard to spot and most people don't feel them bite, so being vigilant after spending time outdoors is important for keeping yourself, your loved ones and your pets healthy."

To help prevent tick bites this season, the Health Department offers the following tips for community members:

- Wear long, light-colored clothing to easily spot ticks.
- Use EPA-registered insect repellents containing DEET or other approved ingredients
- Treat clothing and gear with permethrin.
- Stay on the center of hiking trails, avoiding brush.
- Examine clothing, gear and pets after being outdoors.
- Check your body for ticks once you're indoors. Using a mirror, make sure to check:
  - Under the arms.
  - In and around the ears.
  - Inside the belly button.
  - In and around the hair.
  - Between the legs.
  - Around the waist.
- Showering within two hours of coming indoors.

If you find a tick on yourself, a loved one or a pet, use fine-tipped tweezers to grab the tick as close to the skin as possible and slowly pull straight up with steady, even pressure. Then, wash the bite and your hands with soap and water.

If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your health care provider, making note of when the bite occurred and where you most likely encountered the tick.

BCHD routinely monitors for ticks in the warmer months by conducting drags at various locations across Berrien County.

— STAFF REPORTS

***When your willing to "change" your desires and what you don't want to happen, what more do you want? You have it all. You control your wants. You're suffering vanishes. Your optionality exists ...*** *— Dino N. Fatouros*

# TOWN SQUARE

## LETTERS TO THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES*:

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## RIP: GARTH TAYLOR

It is with great sorrow that we share the unexpected passing of Garth Taylor, founder of the School of American Music and a beloved friend to so many in our community.

Garth was a visionary leader, a passionate advocate for music education, and a tireless supporter of local talent. He believed deeply in the transformative power of music and built this school to ensure that people of all ages and backgrounds could access its joy and meaning. His legacy lives on in every student who finds their voice, every concert that brings us together, and every note that echoes through our halls.

As we mourn this tremendous loss, we are also committed to carrying forward the mission that Garth so passionately championed. Our board of directors and staff are united in ensuring that his vision continues to thrive.

In the days and weeks ahead, we will find ways to honor Garth's memory and share our gratitude for all he gave to this community. We invite you to join us in remembering his life, supporting his family, and reaffirming the values he held dear.

"Garth built more than just a school—he created a space where music could flourish, where people felt connected, and where creativity was celebrated," said Heidi Smith, executive director of the School of American Music. "His vision will continue to guide our work for years to come."

We invite the community to reflect, remember, and reaffirm the values Garth Taylor held dear—community, education, and the joy of music. Details for any public memorial will follow and you can find additional information on our Facebook page and website.

# Local Government Meetings

## New Buffalo Times

**Democracy Requires Transparency**

**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO**
VANCE PRICE, MAYOR
**CITY COUNCIL**
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJEWSKI, KAREN GEAR, RICH KNOLL, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
**CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD**
HOWARD MALES, MICHELLE HEIT, MICHELLE HANNON, PATTY IAZZETTO, BARBARA ANDERSON
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
**NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
**SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY**
Sheriff, Chuck Heit
Undersheriff, Greg Sanders
**NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY**
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD**
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, JENNIFER SUMMERS, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP**
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD**
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, ARTHUR ANDERSON
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
**CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
**THREE OAKS**
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
**GRAND BEACH**
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday at 5PM EST
KIMBERLY WOLNIK, CLERK-TREASURER
HARRY WALDER, JACK GRACE, ED SEBASTIAN, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES
**MICHIANA**
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

# Man charged following major injuries in school bus collision

BY STAN MADDUX

A Chicago area man was arrested for causing a school bus collision that left a high school baseball player in critical condition and coach with serious injuries in La Porte County Thursday, May 8.

Shawn Akison, 41, of Romeoville, Illinois, was being held in the La Porte County Jail on $15,000 bond for Level 5 felony criminal recklessness.

Police said he caused the collision in a box truck minutes after St. Joseph County Police terminated a pursuit of his vehicle.

Akison refused to stop when an officer tried pulling him over for driving recklessly, police said.

He was given a blood test to determine if he was impaired, but the results have not been released due to the ongoing investigation.

According to court records, Akison has a Level 6 felony charge of possession of a narcotic drug from January still undecided in Lake County, Indiana.

The crash left New Prairie High School junior varsity baseball player, Lucas Bradshaw, with a major head injury and volunteer coach, Rich Shail, with a fractured vertebrae in his back, broken ribs and other injuries.

"All you can do is pray, really. Pray and hope," said Emma Deutscher, who like Bradshaw is a sophomore and student in the school's chapter of Future Farmers of America.

Her twin sister, Chloe, who's also in FFA, described Bradshaw as an always hard worker in the classroom, who likes to talk about his activities on his family farm in the New Carlisle area.

"Ever since we were younger, I just remember him always talking about farming. That's his passion," she said.

Bradshaw was the secretary this year of the school's FFA chapter.

He also was among the members of an FFA small engines team at the school that placed seventh out of 34 teams in a recent state competition.

During a prayer vigil at the school the following day, Principal Justin Heinold told the crowd his attitude is one of hope.

"I know I'm going to be amazed at the return of those who aren't with us today," he said.

Bradshaw and Shail remained at Memorial Hospital in South Bend a week after the collision.

When reached, the boy's family chose not to comment.

The latest social media posts from loved ones indicate he remains in critical condition with positive signs, though, in his bid to recover from a head injury.

Nancy Shail said her husband has been out of bed with help from a walker and is wearing a back brace from his neck to his hips to stabilize the fractured vertebrae.

Shail and Bradshaw were in one of two minibuses traveling to a game in Hobart when the crash happened on U.S. 20 at Fail Road north of La Porte.

Six other players and one additional coach were hurt in the crash with several taken to hospitals and later released.

Mrs. Shail said the bus carrying her husband and Bradshaw was stopped at a traffic light behind the other bus when struck in the rear by the box truck.

***Thinking is difficult, that's why most people judge.***
*— Carl Jung*

# To Your Health

COLUMN BY KAREN EDWARDS ND

## HOW TO CLEANSE YOUR LYMPH SYSTEM

The lymphatic system is our garbage removal system. Anything the body does not recognize as food, or is foreign to the body (Toxic Chemicals) will flow through this system for removal. It is when this system gets overloaded that we run into major problems.

Our blood feeds and builds our tissue, while the lymphremoves the waste. The circulatory system has a pump (the heart) that carries its fluid through the body no matter what we are doing. However, the lymphatics depend solely on muscle contraction and movement. When we are not moving, the system can back up causing lymph nodes to swell and many health issues to rise.

Your immune system depends on a free-flowing lymphatic system. When it is clogged or not fully operating, phlegm and congestion begins to build up causing a congested lymph system and all sorts of chaos in our bodies. From allergies, sinus, chronic headaches, puffiness of the face, stiffness in the neck, to autoimmune diseases.

Here is what I recommend: Cut out all artificial colors, sweeteners, process foods and stick to plant-based food. Enzymes and fiber in Fresh raw plants act like brushes to cleanse. Try this at least 21 days to give the lymphatic system a good cleaning.

Only use personal care products that you could literally eat. Chemicals from shampoo, deodorant, perfumes and other items get into the blood stream through the skin. Many of These are known carcinogens.

Drink enough water to help maximize the lymphatic flow. Water will also help you sweat.

Exercise is the best friend to the lymphatics. It helps move the muscles and sweat out toxins. Nothing gets the Lymph system moving like a mini trampoline and jumping jacks. Walking is vital to the lymph system. LIFE IS MOVEMENT!! The more you move and sweat the better.This is toxins coming out, that the lymph system will no longer have to struggle with.

Deep Breathing will expand the diaphragm and pushthe lymphatic fluid through the body. Plus, you are nowoxygenating all of your organs expelling loads of acid.

Most of the accumulation of waste is excess toxins from a backed-up colon! Eat responsibly to insure regular bowel movements.

Ladies, your bra's can be a major contributing factor in developing breast cancer and having other lymphatic issues. Pinching the lymph system off is like pinching a hose that is draining a dirty pond, these toxins will accumulate and lead to issues. Pants, belts, bra's, shoes and even gloves that are too tight can cause issues, especially when worn daily. Your lymphatic vessels need to be open!

Lymphatic massage and draining the lymph physically is also a benefit. You can use acupuncture to make sure the energy systems of the body are flowing.

Herbs hat help move and support the lymphatic system are Cleavers, Red Clover, Mullein and Echinacea. These are immunomodulator herbs. Some are growing around you right now.

Disclaimer: Nothing in these articles is meant to replace medical advice. If you are on medications, do not stop taking them. This is for educational purposes.

*Karen Edwards is a board-Certified Dr. of Naturopathy, Master Herbalist, Vegan and Raw food Chef. She is owner of Holistic Alternatives in New Buffalo and La Porte for over 25 years.*

# Help from public sought on body pulled from Lake Michigan

BY STAN MADDUX

Authorities were trying to identify a human body pulled some distance from the Lake Michigan shoreline.

According to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, a fisherman discovered the body on the morning of Saturday, May 10, about two miles offshore from Central Beach in Beverly Shores.

Due to the condition of the body, the person appears to have been missing for an extended period of time, DNR said.

DNR also revealed the individual was wearing red and black plaid pajama pants, black socks and had a "unique ring" on the right index finger.

Anyone with information is asked to contact their local authorities or the Indiana Department of Natural Resources dispatch center at 812-837-9536.

# Hikers to trek through Mount Tabor Trails

Hikers will make their way through the stunning Mount Tabor Trails looping through the woods and vineyards between the Round Barn Estate in Baroda and Tabor Hill Winery at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 24.

Harbor Country Hikers Leader, Pat Fisher, president of HCH, will explain what ecoregions are, why our ecoregion experiences a temperate climate, and why that matters. Just a reminder, the trails are muddy and quite slippery when wet due to the clayey soils. They are also very hilly.

HCH has an All-Terrain Rollator which may be reserved for use on our hikes. Reservations are made by emailing harborcountryhikers@gmail.com on a first-come first-served basis.

Long pants (preferably tucked-in), a sun hat, sturdy shoes or boots and insect repellent and plenty of water are recommended for the approximately over two-mile, two hour and 25-minute hike. Depending on the weather, there may be some muddy areas. The hike location is 10983 Hills Road in Baroda. — STAFF REPORTS

# Friendship Botanic Gardens to host educational 'Moth Walk'

Friendship Botanic Botanic Gardens will host a "mothing" demonstration and guided walk with local insect photographer Chris Joll from 7:30-9:30 p.m. CDT Friday, May 23.

"Mothing" is the practice of observing and studying moths, often by attracting them with special lighting setups and traps. Visitors are invited to learn about moths and other nocturnal insects amongst the diverse natural habitats of Friendship Botanic Gardens. This is a free event.

Friendship Botanic Gardens is located at 2055 East U.S. Highway 12 in Michigan City. For more information contact Friendship Botanic Gardens at info@friendshipbotanicgardens.org or 219-878-9885. — STAFF REPORTS

# SPORTS

## Bison swept in doubleheader by Titans

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School varsity baseball team dropped to 12-6 on the season after losing both games of a doubleheader at home Tuesday, May 13, against conference rival Michigan Lutheran.

Four of the losses for the Bison this season have been against the Titans.

Head Coach Adam Lijewski believes his players beat themselves in at least three of those losses, including the first game of the most recent doubleheader that ended 6-5.

"We defeated ourselves again against these guys," he said.

The Bison opened the doubleheader by giving up a run to the Titans in the first inning but came back with four runs in the second inning that began with Jeffrey Tertel on a ground ball reached base on a throwing error.

After the next two batters walked, three runs scored on a passed ball and singles from Drew Bowen and Ethan Lijewski.

Lijewski later crossed the plate on a sacrifice fly by Nick Wolfe to center field.

The Bison had a chance to put the game away in the fourth inning with one out and the bases loaded but the next two hitters struck out.

Freshman pitcher Colten Lijewski was cruising with five strikeouts in his first three innings but, after giving up a run in the fourth inning, he opened the fifth inning by walking the first two batters.

He got the next two hitters out, but three runs then scored on back to back singles and a wild pitch.

The last run of the inning crossed the plate after a fielding error and another wild pitch from Lijewski, who was replaced on the mound by Vaugh Nikkel.

In the final inning, Ethan Lijewski with one out reached base on a bad hop single to the third baseman and stole second base.

The lead was cut to one when Lijewski scored on an infield single and bad throw to the first baseman.

The rally fell short, though, when the next two Bison hitters failed to reach base.

Lijewski said he probably should have called Nikkel to the mound sooner, but what also hurt the team were batters taking called third strikes instead of swinging especially with runners in scoring position.

"Some guys in spots didn't hit the ball. We just didn't take advantage of things we needed to take advantage of. When you did that in baseball, you're going to lose," he said.

The Bison were defeated in the second game called after five innings 12-7.

The game was tied after four innings but the Titans scored five runs in the top of the 5th inning and the Bison, in response at the plate, were not able to answer.

# From the Bleachers

**COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO**

The position group we haven't looked at yet is the Chicago Cubs pitching staff, and it's a very complicated position group.

During the offseason, the team was expected to acquire a top of the line starting pitcher and a legitimate closer, but they did neither.

When the Cubs virtually gave the Yankees Cody Bellinger, the thought was that they were going to take the money they saved and buy a free agent, top of the line starting pitcher. Unfortunately for the team and their fans, ownership got cheap and the Bellinger trade proved to be merely a salary dump.

The other extremely obvious pitching need was getting a professional closer. While the Cubs were negotiating with their choice, the Dodgers swooped in and signed him. The Dodgers already had a closer or two, so the move took the Cubs by surprise, but a stronger initial effort may have closed the deal.

So, the Cubs began the season with a lot of pitchers and I guess they hoped a couple of them would have a better than average year.

Early in the season they've been hitting so well that great pitching wasn't really required. They made it through the most difficult part of their schedule in first place, but injuries to the pitching staff may make that difficult to maintain.

First, Justin Steele, the Cubs best pitcher, needed surgery on his elbow and is out for the season. Javier Assad has been nursing an injured oblique since the season began.

Recently, Shota Imanaga, their second best pitcher, injured his hamstring. That leaves only Boyd, and Taillon standing from what was expected to be the starting five.

To their credit, the Cubs have found replacements.

Ben Brown took Assad's place and has been more than adequate. Colin Rea has filled in admirably for Imanaga, and Saturday night the Cubs highest rated minor league pitcher, Cade Horton, pitched beautifully to beat the New York Mets.

The bullpen remains in a state of flux, and probably will all year. The Cubs will probably battle the Cardinals, Reds, and Brewers all season, but if they had made the moves most anticipated before the season began, they would be in much better shape.

Moving on, the Bears held their rookie minicamp last week.

The rookies, as a whole, loved the coaches and vice versa. A few of the Bears draft choices were angry because they were chosen later than they thought they should be.

Before anyone even put on pads, all the draft choices and a few of the free agents seem to be future Hall of Famers.

While I'm still very optimistic about the Bears prospects for this season, many of my friends and associates think that the optimism is out of control, Even though their schedule is extremely difficult, my guess is that they make the playoffs and win eleven games. Da Bears.

Maya Angelou said, "A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer, it sings because it has a song."

Be kind Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

# Young Raiders living up to potential in girls' softball

**BY STAN MADDUX**

The young Red Arrow Raiders high school girls' softball team improved to 14-7 after a doubleheader sweep at Eau Claire Monday, May 12.

The Raiders defeated the Beavers 11-3 and 19-1.

Head Coach Erick Rochefort said the improvement in the performance and chemistry of his mostly freshman and sophomore players has the team positioned for its first post season victory since River Valley and New Buffalo high schools merged their girls' softball programs.

The Raiders, who have just two seniors and one junior, are now in their third season.

"We can take any team on," he said.

The highlights on offense against Eau Claire included inside the park home runs in the second game by Addie Lynch, Johnna Rochefort and Greta Vollman.

Rochefort also had an inside the park home run in game one.

Laney Strother drive in five runs with two hits in the second game

The Raiders on Friday, May 9 split a doubleheader at home against Michigan Lutheran 9-6 and 9-6.

In the first game, the Titans evened the score in the bottom of the seventh inning and won the game in extra innings.

Lynch and Strother each scored twice while Emma Seifert scored once and had two hits.

Rochefort said what he liked most was how the team didn't allow such a heartbreaking loss to keep them down even after trailing 3-0 after the first inning of the second game.

"After a defeat like that, they did come back ready to play and did a great job all around," he said.

The Raiders scored four runs each in the third and fourth innings and held on after the Titans scored two runs in the final inning.

Rochefort on two hits drove in three runs while Ava Ledesma on three hits scored two runs and drove in a run.

Emerson Collins scored once and drove in a run on two hits.

Seifert also went the distance from the mound.

With about two weeks left in the regular season, Rochefort said his players are playing "like a family" in terms of talking to each other on defense, playing emotionally for one another and hustling in all areas of the game.

"They're hitting the ball hard, running the bases hard, listening to the coaches and doing everything they're asked," he said.

***When the ball isn't in my hands, I'm already scanning for where the next pass is going.***
*— Draymond Green*

# SCHOLASTICS

## New Buffalo Area Schools launches New Buffalo Community Education Foundation

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

With the launch of the New Buffalo Community Education Foundation comes a potential renovation of the baseball field, members of the New Buffalo Area Schools Board of Education learned at their Monday, May 12, meeting.

Superintendent Adam Bowen said that the foundation's origins can be traced back to people wanting to make large amounts of donations but the district "not having the means of accepting those kinds of donations."

The foundation will also serve as a venue for supporting students through scholarships as well as focusing on increasing student enrollment, STEAM and the arts and teacher retention and recruitment.

Bowen said more information is available by clicking on "More" at nbas.org and that the foundation also has a social media component.

"This project of the baseball/softball field is kind of a launch of it and there's more to come with that," Bowen said.

James Beever, vice president of special projects for GeoSurfaces, which is a TenCate company, said that he's been working with Bowen and other board members on doing a design build for the baseball/softball field.

Six weeks ago, a crew came, and he provided the engineering for "the orientation switch to your field."

Beever said he's also proposing a new type of turf system that has been developed: Pivot, by TenCate.

The type of turf includes an iteration of the fiber that "requires no infill or sand so it makes it very unique," he said, adding that it's about 25-30 degrees cooler than a rubber infill system.

Beever added that the company is committed to a 12-year warranty on the new system. He added that 80 fields across the country have had "really good success with it."

In working with Bowen and some of the foundation's members, Beever said it's being proposed that the district goes with an alternative base called GeoBase, which comes with a 25-year warranty.

A sod that includes a variety of blue grass and is the same one that's used at "higher levels" would be added to the baseball field, as well as new foul poles, new fencing and a new backdrop, which would be "all oriented and designed to fit on your property," Beever said.

If the proposal is approved by the board, it's anticipated the project will begin in July.

"And then I would sod in August to give that a full fall season for the growth of your sod to come in – so you'll have your fields ready to go next spring," Beever said.

With regards to the fibers, Bowen asked Beever about the impact and the "wear and tear on the athlete."

"There's a video out there that you shared with me about, when athletes are pivoting and turning and the recoil – you don't get that with this because there's no rubber pallets or sand infill," he said.

Beever said that, with surface in the new system that they're proposing, the "testing and data is more in line with natural grass surfaces – the recoil isn't as bad."

"It's not quite like playing at the Super Bowl with natural grass but it's really close," he said.

**Members of the New Buffalo Community Education Foundation are Dan Petersen, Tom Rowland, Traci Lauricella, Vanessa Thun, Gary wood, Greg Vosberg, Brian Williams and (not pictured) Ryan Welsh**

**Ashley Jager accepts a check from the Rebecca Dewey Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution from Tiffani Dash**

Tiffani Dash, a regent for the Rebecca Dewey Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, presented a $500 check to New Buffalo High School Art Teacher Ashely Jager to use as she sees fit.

Each year, she said that the chapter presents a check to a local teacher. After reaching out to Bowen, they learned that her name had been selected.

Board members also heard updates on the district's Wellness Team, which is Lisa Price, college and career counselor; Angela Robertson, secondary school counselor; Keri Haskins, elementary school counselor; Megan Smith, secondary social worker and Caroline Fortunato, middle/high school advocate.

Bowen said the team does lots of "behind the scenes work."

"With the tests scores, they have a direct impact about making sure our kids are ready to learn and they're in a good headspace to make that happen," he said.

He added that the district had restructured the Wellness Team, with Robertson moving to the middle school to get PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) up and running over and to do restorative practices and student teams over there.

He added that support from Berrien RESA helped make this happen.

The decision was also made to go with a restorative paraprofessional, Samantha Niemeyer, at the elementary school to "adopt through the whole entire district that practice" as well as to free up time for Haskins to perform her duties there.

"When you really think about it, there's some serious, big things we were trying to implement over there – it's like three to five years that it takes to really get some traction going and this team, in a short amount of time, has done a phenomenal job getting to where we're at right now," Bowen said.

Board members approved granting tenure status to middle school teacher Julie Raducha and elementary teacher Lisa Ziel.

Board members approved the Operation Agreement for participants involved in the La Porte County Career and Technical Area Vocational District #6.

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**DATE: Saturday May 17th, TIME: 9:00-11:00 CST**
**LOCATION: A whole world of Good**
**711 Lincolnway, LaPorte IN** (Parking is limited, come early)

**Please arrive at least 15 minutes early and BE ON TIME. I will start promptly at 9 am. Anyone that has attended my classes in the past know this. It is only fair to those who ARE on time.** 😊

*REGISTER at herbdoc@comcast.net Space is limited.*

*First come first served.*

TEXT AND WHATEVER JUST DON'T TEXT AND
STOPTEXTSSTOPWRECKS.ORG
ad COUNCIL NHTSA

# Celebrating a Grand Floral Parade in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Spring was in full bloom during the 119th annual Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade in St. Joseph and Benton Harbor Saturday, May 10.

The parade featured over 100 units, including bands and color guards from area school districts, floats, clowns, costumed characters, antique cars, equestrian units and the famed Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motorcycle Drill Team.

Special guests included Grand Marshal Gloria Ender, City of Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammad, City of St. Joseph Mayor Brooke Thomas, state Rep. Joey Andrews and the Berrien County Sheriff's Honor Guard.

This year, the 2025 New Buffalo Royal Court garnered the Board of Director's Award for their Baton Rouge, Louisianna-inspired "Let the Good Times Roll" float, complete with Louie the Alligator blowing bubbles that was created by the FIRST Robotics Team #5535, the New Buffalo Bionic Bison.

The 2.5-mile parade begins at Pearl and Main streets in St. Joseph and runs along Main Street to Ship Street before continuing over the Bicentennial Bridge into Benton Harbor, where it heads down Main Street South Haven and ends at 5th Street.

The Berrien County Sheriff's Mounted Division marches in the parade

Bridgman Royalty rides in the parade

Louie the Lightning Bug was one of the costumed characters in the parade

Sam the Wheeler performs on his unicycle

Berrien County Shriner's Mini Patrol makes an appearance

The younger Blossomtime royalty rides in the parade

The Cedar Point-themed Eau Claire and Sodus float rides in the parade

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi's Four Winds Casino served as the parade's official presenting sponsor

Blossomtime Royalty rides in the parade

Grand Marshal Gloria Ender rides in the parade

Benton Harbor Mayor Marcus Muhammed rides in the parade

New Buffalo Royalty celebrates its Board of Director's Award at the Grand Floral Parade

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motorcycle Drill Team kicks off the festivities

The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motorcycle Drill team kicks off the parade

Wolverine Detachment 722 rides by in the parade

New Buffalo Royalty rides atop their prize-winning Baton Rouge-themed float at the Grand Floral Parade

Boy Scouts of Southwest Michigan march in the parade

The stilt walker from Sam the Wheeler performs in the parade

Antique cars abounded in the parade

Three Oaks and River Valley Royalty rides atop their float at the Grand Floral Parade

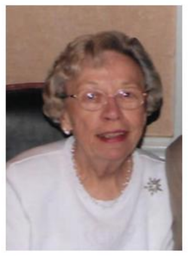
St. Joseph Mayor Brooke Thomas rides in the parade

Benton Harbor Royalty rides in the parade

# OBITUARIES

## Mary Ann (Jelinek) Ruzicka

1926-2025



The Ruzicka family is saddened to announce the passing of Mary Ann (Jelinek) Ruzicka, age 98, of New Buffalo, Michigan. She passed away peacefully on April 10, 2025, just three months shy of her 99th birthday, at Franciscan Hospital in Michigan City.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Sommerfeld Chapel in New Buffalo. Friends and loved ones wishing to share a message of condolence may do so by visiting www.sommerfeldchapel.com.

Mary Ann was born on July 19,1926, in the Jelinek's family home near Elston Avenue on Chicago's Northwest Side, to the late Louis and Marie (Cepelak) Jelinek.

In her early childhood, she was bedridden for twelve months with scarlet fever and rheumatic fever. She overcame both illnesses and went on to graduate from Lucy Flower High School in Chicago in 1944. After attending Wright Junior College, Mary Ann worked in the Loop with some of the nation's top ENT doctors.

On October 3, 1953, in Chicago, she married the love of her life, Ervin Ruzicka, and moved to New Buffalo. Mary Ann and Ervin enjoyed nearly sixty-one years of marriage until his passing on June 16, 2014. Together, they raised two sons, Corey Ruzicka of Tampa, FL and Marc Ruzicka PhD (Margarita Tascon Gonzalez, PhD) of Dublin, CA. Mary Ann was a dedicated and loving wife and mother, who was always present and involved in events that included: New Buffalo School PTA, band candy manager, homeroom holiday mother, field trip chaperon, Cub Scouts, and college drop-offs/pickups. She budgeted the money during the year so we could take an annual vacation driving somewhere in the USA. She was the heart of the family, and the one who made sure every detail was completed.

Mary Ann cherished her daughter-in-law, Margarita, who grew up in Spain and became a professional ballerina. Mary Ann is a proud and loving grandmother to Fabian, Dario and Azahara. She spent the past fifteen years saving diligently to establish college trust funds for each of them. Her grandchildren were her greatest joy.

Mary Ann also shared a special ninety-four-year sisterhood with her surviving sister, Velma (Jelinek) Kain of Glenview, IL. Aunt Velma said they always got along and never had an argument. Mary Ann was preceded in death by her older sister, Lillian Jelinek, brother-in-law Joseph Kain.

She is survived by her nephews, Joseph (Bonnie) Kain and their daughter Sarah, and Jeffrey (Melissa Ploshay) Kain and Jeff's son Ryan (Hannah) Kain.

Beyond her family, Mary Ann's great passion was the New Buffalo Township Library, where she served faithfully on the Library Board for twenty years, from 1992 to 2012. Her twenty-year plaque is proudly displayed in the Local History Room of the library. In a 2012 Harbor Country article marking her retirement, she encouraged the community to support the new library project:

"I hope everyone will vote for the new library. There is so much we can do for adults and children. It says so much about the community. We have a fantastic new school. Now, we can have a fantastic new library," she said.

Mary Ann deeply valued the library staff, calling them a "terrific group of workers who are always seeking out the latest and the best." She loved sharing a story about a visitor from New York, who, with an armful of books, told her that New Buffalo had the "nicest library she'd ever been in, and the clerks are fantastic."

Mary Ann also held a sixty-four-year love for life in the Riviera neighborhood, where each morning she would gaze out at the beautiful Galien River and the wetlands. She always said she had "the best view of any house in Harbor Country." In addition to the Library Board, she dedicated more than twenty years serving on the Riviera Homeowners Association Board, where she was instrumental in saving Riviera's marsh property from commercial development.

Private funeral services will be held, and her final resting place will be Pine Grove Cemetery in New Buffalo. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Children's Department of the New Buffalo Township Library.

Years ago on Mother's Day, son Marc sent her a card that read: "There have been many famous moms that have come into our house over the years on TV-like June Cleaver and Carol Brady-but only one is, and always will be, the Number One Mom-Mary Ann Ruzicka."

## Judith Ilene Webb

1955-2025

Judith Ilene Webb, 85, of New Buffalo, MI, passed away on Thursday – May 8, 2025 at the Rittenhouse Senior Living of Portage. Arrangements have been entrusted to Sommerfeld Chapel – 15 N. Barton St., New Buffalo, MI.

Judith was born on Aug. 12, 1939 in Roseland, IN, to the late William and Mildred (Schultz) Lunog.

On Oct. 7, 1955 she married Donald Earl Webb; he preceded her in death on Oct. 3, 2015. Judith is survived by children – Donald (Barbara) Webb of Richmond, Virginia, Ronald (Tami) Webb of New Buffalo, and Sheila (Freddie) Rich of Portage, IN; 8 grandchildren; 9 great grandchildren; and brothers – Melvin Lunog of Three Oaks and Jerry Lunog of Galien, MI. She is preceded in death by daughters – Pamela and Sandra; and brother – Larry.

Visitation with the family is on Tuesday – May 13, from 12-2pm at Sommerfeld Chapel in New Buffalo. A Celebration of Life Service follows at 2pm at the funeral home with Pastor Anthony Fields officiating. Burial then takes place at Pine Grove Cemetery in New Buffalo.

Judith was a loving mother and grandmother and enjoyed spending time with her family. She was a member of the New Buffalo American Legion Women's Auxiliary and also the Moose Lodge #783 of Hobart, IN. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

# 1 in 7 children faces hunger.

There's more than enough food in America for every child who struggles with hunger. Help get kids the food they need by supporting Feeding America, the nationwide network of food banks. Together, we can solve hunger™.
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ad COUNCIL

FEEDING AMERICA

# Frederick S. Upton Foundation announces summer grant deadline

## THE FOUNDATION OFFERS THREE GRANT CYCLES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

The Frederick S. Upton Foundation is now accepting applications for its summer grant cycle; Deadline to apply is June 15, 2025.

The Upton Foundation considers grant requests from a variety of nonprofit organizations, government agencies, religious organizations and schools. Applications should focus on projects or programs that are meeting a need inBerrien County.

One of the goals of the Frederick S. Upton Foundation is to encourage organizations and people to work together to improve both the economics and culture of Berrien County. The Upton Foundation offers three grant cycles a year. After the June deadline passes, one more opportunity remains for the fall — those grant applications are due October 15, 2025.

Agencies are welcome to apply during multiple cycles but can only receive one Upton Foundation grant per calendar year. Organizations must contact the Frederick S. Upton Foundation to be given access to the online application.

To request access, email uptonfoundation@berriencommunity.org or call Berrien Community Foundation at 269-983-3304. For more information about the Upton Foundation and its mission, visit www.berriencommunity.org/frederick-s-upton-foundation. — STAFF REPORTS

New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

# A Writer's Life...

## DURING THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION ANIMATION

BY JACK OLESKER

The lifeline comes

After Jean surrendered on getting his computer working this evening, we moved to the living room and he abruptly asked, "What's wrong? You're not happy being an assistant story editor?"

"No. I am. I'm grateful."

"But you're not learning as fast as you would like?" He asked, "Did Sandy get you the Care Bears Series Bible and scripts to read?"

"Yes, but the Series Bible only because I asked for it."

Jean was silent for a moment, processing this, then said, "And something else...You want to be writing?" Without waiting, he said, "Write some Care Bears story springboards and get them to Lori. I'll assign you an episode."

I caught my breath, not having known I could write episodes now that I'm on staff.

Jean asked, "Sandy didn't tell you that you could write episodes?"

I nodded.

Jean looked to the sliding doors to his balcony. All he said was, "Hmmm..."

Belatedly, it struck me as odd that Jean told me to deliver the story springboards to Lori rather than Sandy. I may not have heard the whisper of the ax yet, but I was pretty sure I heard the guillotine's blade ratcheting as it was being hoisted skyward.

I knew it was not going to be easy. That was why I planned to do it over the weekend. Already I felt pangs of loss in my belly. By Sunday the die was cast. I'd spent the morning looking at electronics ads and making calls to stores. At last I settled on the Kaypro 2 computer that would be my first computer.

My throat felt tight. I was sweating, not just because buying a computer that at $1,595 (almost $6,000 in today's dollars) meant I would be shelling out over a $1,000 dollars more than I had for my beloved IBM Selectric II typewriter. What really bothered me was that I was abandoning my dear, longtime companion.

No one who hadn't gone through the transition from the IBM Selectric I to the Selectric II could appreciate what writers felt for the Selectric II. Released in 1971, with a spinning ball typing element that moved along the paper and (OMG!) magical lift-off tape that spelled the death knell of Wite-Out, it was a quantum leap in typewriters.

Forget about The Jetsons. We were all convinced the Selectric II was going to be the technological state-of-the-art for the next 100 years!

And then my doorbell rang. A dad and his 18-year-old daughter walked into my living room. And then the dad counted out $350.

Minutes later I walked out onto my balcony, looked down, saw them walking to a station wagon with my Selectric II.

"There goes my baby...there she goes, there she goes, there she goes. No, no, no..."

I turned and saw Jean on his neighboring balcony. He smiled. I couldn't bring myself to smile back.

As I walked back into my living room, I thought 'What have I done...?'

*Jack Olesker's career in the entertainment industry spans over four decades. He has served as a story editor in L.A. as well as president of a motion picture and television company in Chennai, India. His writing ranges from Mighty Morphin Power Rangers, Care Bears and Hello Kitty's Furry Tale Theater to documentaries and horror novels and murder mysteries for adults.*

# HOROSCOPE

## MAY 15-21, 2025

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

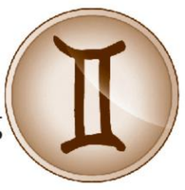
**ARIES** MARCH 21—APRIL 19

There is potential for conflict and arguments at this time. Your ability to be forthright and outspoken are at issuex Other people are easily confused and mistaken about your true motives. Be honest about your needs of independence and do not compromise your desires.

**TAURUS** APRIL 20—MAY 20

You may have a hard time relaxing now. Your mind is full of creative ideas and you have a strong need to get those ideas out. Artistic and literary pursuits prove to be the most rewarding now. You will be sought after both romantically and socially. Let love be your inspiration.

**GEMINI** MAY 21—JUNE 21



Career and family commitments are highlighted this week. This is not the time to take any unnecessary risks as financial restraints could result. Also make sure you know all the facts before putting in your two cents or arguments could arise. Take some time to just relax be alone.

**CANCER** JUNE 22—JULY 22

Its time to focus in on intuition and gut feelings. You may have a hard time expressing your inner self with others but this will not keep you from expressing yourself artistically. Being generous and kind spirited you will enjoy creating beauty for people. This is a good time to plant flowers.

**LEO** JULY 23—AUGUST 22

You are particularly hardworking and have a keen sense of what is important to get things accomplished on time this week. Relationships with others need tenderness now. So, take time from work to strengthen your connection with others. It is nice to know your wanted and desired.

**VIRGO** AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

There is a call to action this week. Your physical energy is increasing and you have the desire to get moving. It is a good time to change things around and clear out any clutter, that goes for interpersonal relationships too. If you have been putting things off this is the time to get them finished.

**LIBRA** SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Your mind is operating meticulously and you may be feeling quite cautious about work and any up-and-coming projects. You may be experiencing some level of self-doubt. Do not dwell on these feelings as you have learned well from past experiences and have the know how to get the job done.

**SCORPIO** OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

There are things you have been wanting to do and say but you have kept it quiet. Opening up is hard but trust in yourself and know that what you want is important too. Things may seem far off and out of reach but soon the right situation will arise for you to express all the things you wanted.

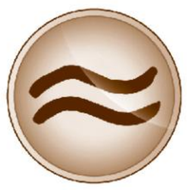
**SAGITTARIUS** NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

You may be feeling less confident and sure about yourself this week. This is just a passing vibration; in truth you are in a better position than you know. Your ingenuity and keen mind are key characteristics that get you noticed by influential people. Your lucky break is right around the corner.

**CAPRICORN** DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Someone or something in your circle has become quite difficult to deal with lately. This is because you are being shown parts of yourself you desire to change. You have tremendous willpower and your ability to manifest is astounding. Use this time to formulate your objectives and go for it.

**AQUARIUS** JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18



You have been carrying a lot of nervous and emotional tension lately. Your energy levels are only going to increase this week so getting involved in strenuous exercise or competitive sports is just what the doctor ordered. Your desire to be in positions of power are motivating factors now.

**PISCES** FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

There is a sense of uneasiness around you and you may have the feeling that people are not telling you the whole story. Your first reaction is to avoid this feeling and shy away from confrontation but being assertive and asking for more information will give you clarity and peace of mind.

***To know how to hide one's ability is great skill.***
*— Francois de La Rochefoucauld*

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## Sudoku

*Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.*

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| 6 | | | | 4 | | 9 | | |

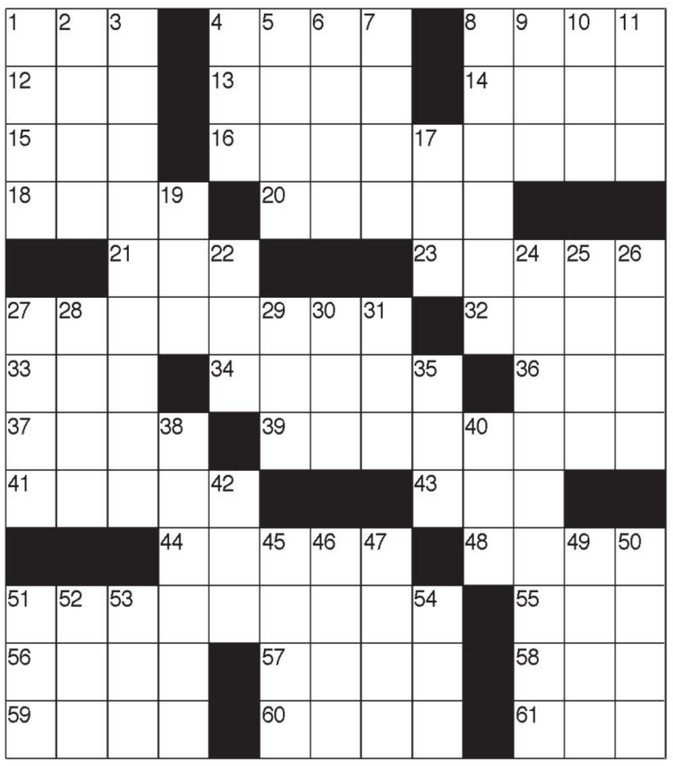
## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**ACROSS**

1 Distress signal
4 Student's pony
8 Build a ceiling
12 Amer. Bar Assn. (abbr.)
13 Recent (suf.)
14 Berne's river
15 Own (Scot.)
16 Kob
18 Flavor
20 Roast (Fr.)
21 Flap
23 Auspices
27 Chambered mollusk
32 Forbidden
33 Mountain on Crete
34 Dominion
36 Fr. month
37 Sleep (pref.)
39 Wind screen
41 Indo-Eur.
43 Pinch
44 "The Bartered Bride" character
48 Mountain summit (Ital.)
51 Event
55 A (Ger.)
56 Andes grass
57 River into the North Sea
58 Television channel
59 Six (Sp.)
60 Ancient Per. province
61 Vanity

**DOWN**

1 Hall (Ger.)
2 Fetish
3 Refuge
4 Counterclockwise (abbr.)
5 Hind
6 Within
7 Vegetable
8 Pronghorn
9 Water (Fr.)
10 Internat'l Red Cross (abbr.)
11 Grouse's courtship area
17 Inlet
19 Corrode
22 Half a quarter
24 Man (2 words)
25 Dayak people
26 Outfit
27 Caravel of Columbus
28 City in Judah
29 Fat (pref.)
30 Caribbean lizard
31 Single lens reflex (abbr.)
35 Belonging to (suf.)
38 Field (Lat.)
40 Custer's horse
42 Never (Ger.)
45 Scot. knife
46 Bank
47 Coptic clergyman
49 Chin. dynasty
50 Year (Lat.)
51 Possessive pronoun
52 Card
53 Greek letter
54 Precious stone



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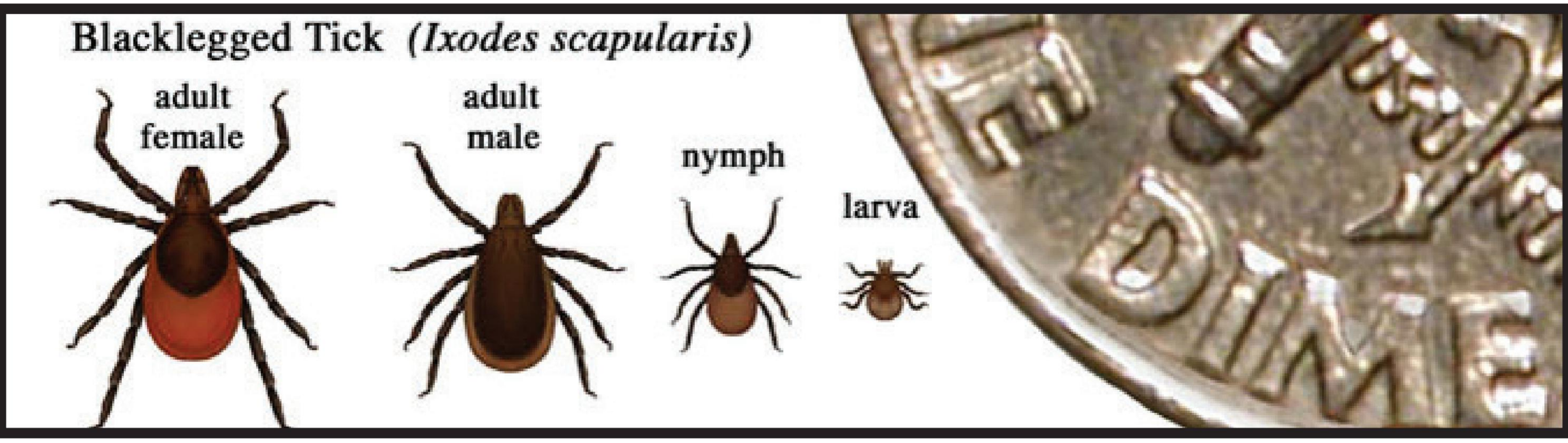

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION – NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS WILL BE SEEKING BIDS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Fuel Products – One Year (2025-2026)

Deadline for Sealed Bids:
May 30, 2025 (NOON)

Please submit to:
Office of the Superintendent
FUEL BID
P. O. Box 280, 1112 E. Clay Street
New Buffalo, MI 49117

All bids must be clearly marked on the face of the envelope. If escalator clauses are included, de-escalator clauses should also be included at the same rate.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids and will select the successful bidder at its next regular meeting after the due date. For bid specifications, call 269-469-6010..

**NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS IS REQUESTING BIDS FOR THEIR 2025-2026 DAIRY NEEDS.**

We are requesting bidders to provide pricing for standard packaging. Please provide unit prices that include ALL fees, including fuel surcharges and additional expenses for the following items:

½ pint 1% Chocolate Milk
½ pint 1% White Milk

Ordering processes, delivery, schedules, and procedure for credits of milk should accompany the bid.

Milk must be delivered in clean milk cartons and crates.

Enrollment PK-12 is approximately 560 students. We offer breakfast and lunch to NBAS students and may put milk on our snack menu.

New Buffalo Area Schools will reguire dairy services beginning August 26th, 2025, through June 29th, 2026.

Bids should be submitted no later than June 2nd, 2025, at 2:00p.m. Please write "MILK BID ENCLOSED" on your envelope. Mail to:

New Buffalo Area Schools
Food Service Department
P.O. Box 280
New Buffalo, MI 49117

We reserve the right to reject any or all bids, or to select the one we deem to be in the best interest of the district.

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2025-2026 BUDGET**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 19, 2025, at 6:00 o'clock p.m., at NBAS High School PAC 1112 E. Clay St, New Buffalo, Michigan, the Board of Education of New Buffalo Area Schools will hold a public hearing to consider the District's proposed 2025-2026 budget.

The Board may not adopt its proposed 2025-2026 budget until after a public hearing. A copy of the proposed 2025-2026 budget, including the proposed property tax millage rate, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at New Buffalo Area Schools Central Office 1112 E. Clay St, New Buffalo, Michigan.

The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.

**THIS NOTICE IS GIVEN BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**PUBLIC AUCTION**
Roger's Wreckers
742 S Whittaker St. New Buffalo, MI
49117 Friday, May 23 10 AM, EST
1998 Ford F 150
2004 Chevy Blazer

**BERRIEN COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER RYAN MCNEELY WILL BE IN NEW BUFFALO AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST #169 19139 US-12, NEW BUFFALO, MI 2-5PM, MAY 23, 2025**

Ryan will be available to answer your questions about VA Entitlements and provide FREE assistance completing benefit applications for VA Entitlements.

Contact Info: Ryan McNeely
269-983-7111 Ext. 6207
Email: RMcNeely@berriencounty.org.

**Walkins Welcome
No Appointments Needed**

## BUS BUST YIELDS STOLEN GUN, DISPENSARY MARIJUANA

La Porte County Police went through the luggage on a commercial bus stopped for traffic violations after a drug sniffing dog alerted to the presence of potential narcotics and arrested a passenger for having a small amount of dispensary marijuana.

Martinez Lake, 25, was also in possession of a fully loaded gun reported stolen in 1987.

According to police, the Barons bus contracted through Greyhound was clocked traveling 72 miles per hour in a 65-mph zone on the Indiana Toll Road Thursday, May 8.

The officer followed the bus for a few miles but pulled it over near Rolling Prairie after the driver veered over the white fog line.

Another officer who stopped to assist had a K-9 dog that detected the presence of narcotics on the bus containing 12 passengers.

After finding no drugs in any of the luggage in the storage compartment, officers boarded the bus to search any carry-on bags.

Police said Lake's duffel bag contained six grams of dispensary marijuana along with a .32 caliber gun reported stolen nearly 40 years ago during a burglary in New York.

Lake told investigators he obtained the gun from a cousin, and he was traveling from his home in Mississippi to Elkhart to be with his fiancée, according to court documents.

He was booked into the La Porte County Jail on Level 5 felony theft and Class B misdemeanor possession of marijuana.

Bond was set at $15,000.

— STAN MADDUX

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**Guests enjoy a full-fledged buffet**

**Vanessa Thun and Tricia Kay Mayer celebrate the return of the Boxcar Buffet**

**Guests view the silent auction items**

# New Buffalo Railroad Museum unveils new name

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

The New Buffalo Railroad Museum turned a new chapter in its 36-year history book at its Boxcar Buffet, the first held since before the pandemic, at the New Buffalo Yacht Club Wednesday, May 7.

Along with a logo, the museum will now have a new name: Habor Country Museum of History + Rail.

"It is about the history of the area... The railroad was a very key point of New Buffalo, but we wanted to try to expand our scope on that," Todd Van Buskirk, president of the museum board of directors, said.

Along with its new name, the museum also unveiled a new mission statement: "To preserve our history and enrich our community for future generations."

"We kind of made our mission statement to preserve our history and enrich our community for future generations," Van Buskirk said.

The process to create the museum's new identity began in 2023, when the board underwent a strategic planning effort.

"We had a mini retreat to get together to talk about how we could rebrand the museum to kind of bring it up to speed to be more relevant and to really review our goals and our mission moving forward because the goal is that we want to serve our community well, we want to engage with every sector of the community and we want the museum to be a sustainable place where people can learn and connect," Van Buskirk said.

In August 2024, the board adopted the new name and mission.

The process involved engaging with Ashley Jager, art teacher at New Buffalo High School, and discussing how students can partner with the museum to develop a new logo, which Jager said was a two-week process.

"The enthusiasm and professionalism that she brought to this process is a really great opportunity to students to learn," Van Buskirk said.

**New Buffalo High School Art Teacher Ashley Jager stands by a display of student-created museum logos**

He also thanked Superintendent Adam Bowen and New Buffalo High School Principal Tracy Ripley for the partnership.

A display of student-created small logos was on display on a board at the buffet. Last fall, board members visited the high school to review each one. Students were also given a tour of the museum.

The board then took the designs and turned them over to their graphic designer, Fusion Design Group, Ltd., in New Buffalo. Tim Rogers and Shelby Sexton of Fusion designed a small group of logos for the board members to vote on.

Current members of the New Buffalo Railroad Museum Board of Directors are Van Buskirk, president; Rich Knoll, vice president and board liaison for Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers; Katha Kissman, treasurer-secretary and volunteer administrator; Wayne Butler, director; Therese Donnelly, director; Ed Fidler, director; Sherri Kerhoulas, director and Vanessa Holecek Thun, director.

Per its website, "the New Buffalo Railroad Museum provides an historical record of the role the railroad (the Pere Marquette Railway, the C&O Railroad, Chessie Systems, CSX Transportation, Amtrak, and the Michigan Central) played in the development of the greater New Buffalo community."

It's also a "celebration of New Buffalo's railway history and the quality of life in small-town America."

The museum is located at 530 South Whittaker St., across from the train yard from the former Pere Marquette railway roundhouse steam locomotive facility.

Hours of operation are from noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, from April 1 through Oct. 30. Admission is free. More information on exhibits and its history can be found at www.new-buffalo-railraod-museum.org.

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